

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed January 12, 2005. A one-month extension of the time to respond, up to and including May 12, 2005, is filed concurrently herewith.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a function register coupled between each of said plurality of function blocks and said circuit, said function register including an address structure that is configurable based on the specified function selected by the host system." Support for the amendments to claim 1 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraphs [0037] and [0038] of the written description. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 1 do not constitute the addition of new matter.

Claim 2 has been amended to improve its form in view of the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 3 has been amended to now recite "a register common to said plurality of function blocks, said register including a write area and a read area distinct from said write area, said register storing said function code for each said function block selected by the host system in said write area and a power save value indicating that a power save mode has been selected by the host system in said read area. . . ." Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 3 do not constitute the addition of new matter. In this regard, support for the amendments to claim 3 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraph [0023].

Claim 4 has been amended to now recite "a function register common to said plurality of function blocks, said function register including a write area and a read area distinct from said write area, said function register storing said function code for each said function block selected by said host system in said write area; and a circuit operable to

control each said function block whose function code is stored in said write area to consume power at an operating rate and to control each said function block whose function code is not stored in said write area to consume power at a standby rate greater than zero and less than said operating rate. . . ."

Support for the amendments to claim 4 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraph [0040] of the written description. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 4 do not constitute the addition of new matter.

Claim 5 has been amended to now recite "a register common to said plurality of function blocks, said register storing said function code for each said function block selected by said host system and a power save value indicating that a power save mode has been selected by said host system, said register including an address structure that is configurable based on the function selected by said host system. . . ."

Support for the amendments to claim 5 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraph [0038] of the written description. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 5 do not constitute the addition of new matter.

The preamble of claim 7 has been amended to now recite "a register common to the plurality of function blocks and having a write area and a read area distinct from the write area. . . ." Claim 7 has also been amended to recite "controlling the apparatus to write the function code of the selected function block to the write area of the register; and reading the function code of the selected function block from the read area of the register. . . ." Support for the amendments to claim 7 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraph [0023] of the written description. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 7 do not constitute the addition of new matter.

Claim 8 has been amended to recite "storing the notification in a write register; reading a value associated with the stored notification from a read register distinct from the write register; and controlling power consumption of the plurality of function blocks based on the read value so that each function block not selected by the host system consumes power at the standby rate of consumption and the selected function block consumes power at an operating rate of consumption greater than the standby rate of consumption." Support for the amendments to claim 8 may be found by reference to, for example, paragraph [0049] of the written description. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 8 do not constitute the addition of new matter.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, applicant respectfully submits that the Official Action of January 12, 2005, is now moot. In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,982 to Nakashima ("*Nakashima*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,131,166 to Wong-Insley ("*Wong-Insley*"). In rejecting claims 2-5 and 7, the Examiner asserts that *Nakashima's* memory 16 is identical to a function register or register as is recited in these claims. (Official Action, pp. 3-11.)

Applicant respectfully submits that although *Nakashima* discloses a memory 16, *Nakashima* does not disclose or suggest memory 16 as "including an address structure that is configurable based on the specified function selected by the host system," as is recited in claim 1. Applicant further respectfully submits that *Nakashima's* memory 16 is also not disclosed as including "a write area and a read area distinct from said write area," as is recited in claim 3. Further, *Nakashima* does not disclose or suggest "storing said function

code for each said function block selected by the host system in said write area and a power save value indicating that a power save mode has been selected by the host system in said read area," as is also recited in claim 3.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that *Nakashima* does not disclose all of the limitations of either claim 1 or claim 3. Further in that regard, *Wong-Insley* does not make up for the deficiencies in *Nakashima*, because *Wong-Insley* does not disclose any structure that shows a register as is recited in claims 1 or 3.

Applicant also respectfully submits that, for at least the foregoing reasons, the subject matter of claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 is not disclosed or suggested, individually or in combination, by *Nakashima* and/or *Wong-Insley*. Furthermore, as claims 2 and 6, respectively, depend from claims 1 and 5, applicant further submits that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by *Nakashima* and/or *Wong-Insley*.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

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Docket No.: SONYJP 3.0-204

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: May 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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